



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
(A part of Waterton-
Glacier
International Peace Park)

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Glacier National Park News Release

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Environmental Analysis Available for Two Medicine Developed Area Project

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – Pete Hart, interim superintendent of Glacier National Park today announced the release of an environmental assessment (EA) and Statement of Findings for construction of replacement housing for employees and a new wildland fire garage in the existing Two Medicine developed area. The Statement of Findings is a specific analysis of the floodplain resources that is required by law. The Two Medicine developed area is likely within the floodplain of Appistoki Creek.

The proposal includes replacing two small sheds with a garage that could accommodate a fire truck, equipment storage, and administrative space. The existing sheds are dilapidated, not wheel chair accessible or rodent-proof, and too small to accommodate a fire truck. The National Park Service (NPS) proposal also includes constructing new employee housing that would replace two aging trailers that were relocated to East Glacier due to their poor condition.

According to Hart, “Employee housing has long been very inadequate at Two Medicine.” On site housing is necessary for the NPS to provide timely response for visitor assistance, emergencies, law enforcement, life/safety concerns, and resource protection. Two Medicine NPS employees provide initial response for all local area incidents occurring within and immediately adjacent to Glacier National Park. Through cooperative agreements, park rangers also assist neighboring agencies beyond park boundaries.

The EA analyzes two action alternatives, in addition to a No Action alternative (Alternative A). Both Alternatives B and C propose building the new housing unit in the vicinity where trailers were previously located. Alternative B proposes to construct the garage near the existing

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storage sheds that would be removed. Alternative C (Preferred Alternative) proposes to construct the garage close to an obliterated intersection near the entrance to the housing area.

Hart noted that these projects are in keeping with the direction for the Two Medicine Valley set forth in Glacier's Final General Management Plan. The Two Medicine developed area, located in the southeast portion of Glacier National Park, includes a 99-site campground, picnic area, ranger station, camp store (national historic landmark), employee housing, boat concessions, private boating, and boat docks.

The EA and Statement of Findings are available on the park's website (www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew/planning.htm) or on request by calling 406-888-7972. Written public comments should be mailed to Glacier National Park, Attention: Two Medicine EA, P.O. Box 128, West Glacier, Montana 59936. Comments may also be sent electronically to the following e-mail address: glac_public_comments@nps.gov (Attention: Two Medicine EA).

The 30-day public comment period ends April 30, 2002.

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